

liberal Democrats about the new majority in Congress. It has been a continuous chorus of whining and complaining from the liberal extremists, such as the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR], the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] and others.

They cannot stand the fact that the American people have rejected 40 years of the liberal policies that have brought this Nation to the edge of bankruptcy, the highest crime rate in the world, an education system that has failed, illegitimacy rates skyrocketing, drug abuse out of control, a welfare program that is a disaster, and a tax burden where middle income families are being crushed.

Mr. Speaker, what have the liberal Democrats offered the American people to help solve these problems? Nothing, absolutely nothing. Nothing but whining and complaining because they are no longer the majority.

In fact, they have tried to block everything the American people have asked the new Republican majority to pass, like a balanced budget, welfare reform, a new crime bill, legislation to save Medicare, education reform and tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, the liberal whiners and complainers have fought for 2 things, regaining the majority and going back to 40 years of the big Government, tax and spend status quo.

AMERICANS DO NOT SUPPORT CUTS IN EDUCATION

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House Republican symbol should no longer be the elephant, because the elephant never forgets. The House Republicans, especially the Republican leader and my friend from Texas, cannot seem to remember that the American people are overwhelmingly opposed to cuts in education. Less than 1 month after we had a budget agreement that restored the cuts in education, they are back to say, let us pay for a gas tax by cutting education funding.

Most Americans support a cut in the Federal gas tax. Frankly, I support one. But not at the expense of education funding. While two-thirds of all Americans are concerned about the quality of education, my colleague, the gentleman from north Texas, DICK ARMEY, is proposing cutting funding for education programs in order to offset that revenue loss for a gas tax cut.

Eliminating our commitment to education is like declaring war on ourselves. We need only to look at our world class competitors in other countries to see what they are doing on education. They are not cutting funding. They are actually putting more money

into it and requiring more out of it. We need to hear more about preparing for a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, during the American Revolution, the American people waged a war against one of the greatest empires in history. One of the main motivations for the revolution was the issue of taxation. In fact, one of their slogans was "No Taxation Without Representation." If you look at the historical record, though, you will find that the taxes the English Crown imposed on the colonists were light by today's standards.

Today is tax freedom day. It is the day that the American people stop working for the Government and start working for their families. Think about it, Mr. Speaker, 17 weeks of the year, almost a third of a year, is spent working for the Government. If our Founding Fathers knew this, they would roll over in their graves.

This may not be 1776, but it is 1996 and its time to cut taxes, reduce government, and restore the American dream for our children and grandchildren.

GAS TAX REPEAL

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, in this House we have seen extreme examples from the GOP on how to deal with issues facing our Nation. We have also seen sensible solutions which have won out in the end.

The country is now debating how to deal with the sudden hike in gas prices. We hear the same old extremist knee-jerk reactions from the Republicans. The majority has suggested cutting education to make up for revenue lost if part of the gas tax is repealed. Cut education? Do we really want to balance our books on the backs of America's families?

Mr. Speaker, a cut in the Federal gas tax of 4.3 cents a gallon would reduce revenues by an estimated \$30 to \$35 billion over 7 years. The new majority refuses to look at cutting corporate welfare. They refuse to look at what windfall profits are being realized by oil companies whose speculations send gas prices skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, through the shutdowns and budget gridlock, we Democrats have fought and won battles protecting education. But we can never rest. Here is a new assault on the American education system. Let us be sensible, not extremist, protecting our future.

TODAY IS TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today is tax freedom day. May 7 is the day we stop working to pay our tax bill and the day we begin to work for ourselves and our families.

Incredibly, the average American must work from January 1 through today just to earn enough money to pay his or her share of State, local, and Federal taxes. Only tomorrow will Americans begin to work for themselves.

Many believe that on April 15 we are through with taxes for awhile. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, on average, Americans spend 2 hours and 47 minutes each day working just to pay their taxes.

Liberal politicians and the special interest groups mistakenly believe raising the minimum wage will help working Americans. Increasing the minimum wage will cost jobs and increase workers' tax burdens. If we really want families to earn more, keep more, and do more, the Government must stop taking so much from each paycheck.

Consider this. The working Americans that Bill Clinton says he is concerned about must earn more than \$3 to buy a gallon of milk that costs less than \$2. Let's cut taxes and make the Government spend less so that Americans may spend more of their hard-earned money.

REPEAL OF THE GAS TAX

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of students across America, I would like to award a dunce's cap to my colleague from Texas. Mr. ARMEY, the acting Speaker of the House, suggested we could pay for repeal of the gas tax with cuts in education. Where does he think the money will come from?

We could cap college assistance—and take Pell grants away from more than 3 million college students. We could cap Head Start—take education, nutrition, and health care away from every one of the 760,000 preschoolers who participate—and we still wouldn't get enough. We could cap funds to elementary schools—and take reading and math help away from 5.5 million students who are struggling to catch up with their peers.

Mr. ARMEY, if you think the American people want to cut our children's education to save themselves 4.3 cents at the gas pump, you haven't done your homework.

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TURN THE CLINTON TAX TREND AROUND

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House